

President Yeltsin underscored that he and Prime Minister Kiriyenko will spare no effort in implementing this program. Recent months have been difficult for Russia and other emerging markets. President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Kiriyenko aim to establish a firm defense against financial market turmoil.

Russia's new economic plan puts in place a solid strategy for fiscal reform. It gives Russian officials the authority they need to collect taxes, crack down on companies that ignore their obligations to the Government, and control spending in line with revenues. What is now important is to carry out these reforms decisively and resolutely. The United States will continue to encourage strong IMF and World Bank engagement in support of reform.

**Statement on Withdrawal of
Medicare Funding for Ravenswood
Hospital in Chicago, Illinois**

May 29, 1998

Today my administration informed the president of Ravenswood Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, that the hospital will lose its Medicare funding on June 21, 1998, unless the facility takes steps to ensure that the events that led to the tragic death of 15-year-old Christopher Sercye are never repeated.

On May 16, Christopher died of gunshot wounds just 35 feet from Ravenswood, where friends had brought the young man for help. There is simply no excuse for this. No one should be left untreated just footsteps from a hospital entrance. No health care professional should turn the other way, and no supervisor should direct an employee not to intervene in a medical emergency.

That is why the Health Care Financing Administration delivered a letter today advising Ravenswood Hospital that unless it provides credible evidence that its policies have been restructured, it will lose all Medicare funding next month. This administration stands ready to take the same strong action against any facility that does not assist in a medical emergency.

I am also extremely pleased that the American Hospital Association has released new

guidelines that advise hospitals to change any policies that prevent taking appropriate actions in a medical emergency. We cannot reverse this inexplicable tragedy, but we can and must take action so that it does not happen again.

**Proclamation 7100—Death of Barry
M. Goldwater**

May 29, 1998

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for the memory of Barry M. Goldwater, former Senator from the State of Arizona, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions on Wednesday, June 3, 1998. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff on that day at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 2, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 3.

Proclamation 7101—National Alternative Fuels Week, 1998

May 29, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In today's robust and growing economy, the United States faces major challenges in meeting the ever-increasing demand for transportation goods and services while minimizing the adverse impact on our energy resources, environment, and future prosperity.

Today's American transportation system remains enormously dependent on oil. Highway transportation alone accounts for more than half of our Nation's oil demand, and the number of vehicles and miles driven on our roads is steadily increasing. Transportation is the second largest contributor to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and will likely be the most significant contributor by the year 2000.

Fortunately, vehicles that are powered by alternatives to conventional gasoline and diesel fuels are already on the market, and domestically produced, renewable alternative fuels are readily available to American consumers. These alternative fuels—such as ethanol, methanol, natural gas, propane, electricity, and biodiesel—can make significant contributions to our energy security and environmental quality. By increasing the use of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), we can reduce our demand for imported oil, create new products, jobs, and businesses, and improve air quality by dramatically reducing carbon dioxide emissions as well as the hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter that are such major contributors to urban air pollution.

More than 350,000 AFVs are already on the road in the 60 communities participating in the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program. This program is fostering the development of AFV markets in a network of cities across the country through partnerships among fuel suppliers, vehicle fleet operators, Federal, State, and local governments, and private sector organizations. Through the efforts of program participants, we are moving closer to our goal of building a transportation

system for our Nation that meets the energy, economic, and environmental needs of Americans today and of generations yet to come.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 31 through June 6, 1998, as National Alternative Fuels Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 2, 1998]

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Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 25

In the morning, the President traveled to Arlington, VA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President attended Game 2 of the NHL Eastern Conference Finals at the MCI Center.

May 27

In a morning ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Edgardo Dumas of Honduras; Baki Ilkin of Turkey; Pascal Akoussoulelou Bodjona of Togo; Lee Hong-koo of South Korea; and Jaime Daremblum of Costa Rica.